

Daption capensis.

Since I recorded the appearance of Cape Pigeons on the Western Australian coast, in the first part of this paper ('Ibis,' 1920, p. 693), a specimen of this bird has been obtained at Cottesloe, near Fremantle, in August this year (1920), and is now in the Perth (W. Australia) Museum, together with other rare species obtained during the winter gales. I first read the records in a cutting from the 'West Australian' newspaper, sent me by a friend, and by last mail have had them confirmed in a letter from Mr. Glauert of the Perth Museum.

IV.—*Remarks on rare and otherwise interesting Birds contained in Collections made by Mr. G. L. Bates in Southern Cameroon.* By DAVID A. BANNERMAN, M.B.E., B.A., M.B.O.U.*

THE birds here referred to were collected by Mr. G. L. Bates in the southern part of Cameroon, for the most part on the River Ja, but a number were secured on the Rivers Bumba and Nyong (*vide* map, *Ibis*, 1908, pl. xi.).

Two distinct collections are represented: the first was sent to the British Museum before the war in 1911, and on these birds Mr. Bates has already published his interesting notes (*Ibis*, 1911, pp. 479-545 & 581-631).

The second collection was received by us in 1915, and these birds Mr. Bates has now generously presented to the National Collection. The period during which these two collections were made extends over a number of years:—

Collection 1, from 1908-1911.

Collection 2, from 1912-1915.

In the following pages I have dealt only with the non-Passerine Birds. Mr. Ogilvie-Grant has already published some notes on the rarer Passerine birds which Mr. Bates sent

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home in these two collections; his remarks will be found in 'The Ibis,' 1917, pp. 72-90. I thoroughly agree with Mr. Ogilvie-Grant's plan in not giving a complete account of these collections. It is quite unnecessary, and indeed a waste of time and space, to enumerate all the species which were obtained; the constant repetition of notes and observations on the same species over and over again in the pages of 'The Ibis' is strongly to be deprecated, and serves no useful purpose whatever. I therefore gladly follow Mr. Ogilvie-Grant's example, and have only mentioned those birds about which there is something of real interest to say which to the best of my knowledge has not been said before.

Thanks to Mr. Bates, the British Museum is now very rich in material from southern Cameroon, and to my mind the time has come when the knowledge which has been gained from the study by various museum authorities of Mr. Bates's magnificent collections should be collated in book form. As Mr. Ogilvie-Grant has truly remarked, from 1902 onwards papers on Mr. Bates's collections have followed one another in a constant stream from the pen of the late Dr. Bowdler Sharpe or Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, and last, but not least, we have several extremely able papers contributed to 'The Ibis' by Mr. Bates himself.

The following are the references to papers describing Mr. Bates's collections from Cameroon:—

- "On a small collection of Birds from Efulen in Cameroon." Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1902, pp. 89-96.
- "On further collections of Birds from the Efulen District of Cameroon." Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1904, Part I. pp. 88-106; Part II. pp. 591-638.
- "Field-Notes on the Birds of Efulen in the West-African colony of Kamerun." Bates, *Ibis*, 1905, pp. 89-98.
- "On further collections of Birds from the Efulen District of Cameroon." Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1905, pp. 461-476; Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1907, pp. 416-464; Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1908, pp. 117-129; Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1908, pp. 317-357.
- "Observations regarding the Breeding Seasons of the Birds in Southern Kamerun." Bates, *Ibis*, 1908, pp. 558-570.
- "Field-Notes on the Birds of Southern Kamerun, West Africa." Bates, *Ibis*, 1909, pp. 1-74.

“Further Notes on the Birds of Southern Cameroon” (with descriptions of the Eggs by W. R. Ogilvie-Grant). Part I., Bates, Ibis, 1911, pp. 479-545; Part II., Bates, Ibis, 1911, pp. 581-631.

Letter, describing a trip to the Nyong River. Bates, Ibis, 1914, pp. 169-172.

“Some facts bearing on the affinities of *Smithornis*.” Bates, Ibis, 1914, pp. 495-502.

“Remarks on some recent Collections of Birds made by Mr. G. L. Bates in Cameroon.” Ogilvie-Grant, Ibis, 1917, pp. 72-90.

***Dendropicus lafresnayi camerunensis*.**

Dendropicus camerunensis Sharpe, Ibis, 1907, p. 443—

Type locality: R. Ja, Cameroon.

Dendropicus lafresnayi Malh. ; Sharpe, Ibis, 1904, p. 620; Bates, Ibis, 1909, p. 21.

Mr. Claude Grant (Ibis, 1915, p. 461) pointed out that the type of *D. lafresnayi* Malh. came from Gaboon, and until we had a series of typical birds from the Gaboon River it would be impossible to say whether the Congo or the Cameroon bird would be true *D. l. lafresnayi*. I do not agree with this decision.

The type of *D. camerunensis* Sharpe (Ibis, 1907, p. 443) was described from the River Ja, Cameroon, and as pointed out in the original description, has the ground-colour of the upper parts darker than birds from the Congo. This is acknowledged by Mr. Claude Grant. As typical *D. lafresnayi* was described from Gaboon, Congo birds are much more likely to be similar to Gaboon specimens than to Cameroon highland birds. I think we can therefore safely consider *D. l. camerunensis* a well-defined race. Mr. Ogilvie-Grant agrees with these conclusions. I am aware that this is the opposite opinion to that expressed by me in ‘The Ibis,’ 1915, pp. 490 & 647. I then believed that the type locality of *D. l. lafresnayi* was (as given in Rev. et Mag. Zool. 1849, p. 533) “? Africa,” and I compared my specimens from Cameroon Mountain and the Manenguba Mountains with birds from southern Cameroon and could not distinguish them. I now unite all Cameroon birds from both the north and the south under Sharpe’s name, and restrict the typical birds to Gaboon and the Belgian Congo.

Mr. Bates has now obtained six more specimens of this species from Bitye, River Ja.

Mesopicus xantholophus Hargitt.

Mesopicus elliotti Cassin.

Dendromus caroli (Mall.).

Dendromus permistus Reichw.

Dendropicus gabonensis (Verr.).

Mr. Bates has sent further specimens of all these Woodpeckers from Bitye.

Lynx torquilla torquilla.

Lynx torquilla Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 112—
Type locality: Sweden.

I record a specimen shot by Mr. Bates at Bitye, River Ja, on the 19th of November, 1913, as we have far too little data of European migrants in West Africa. It is unfortunate that collectors who must often have the opportunity of procuring European birds on passage entirely ignore these in favour of local species whose range is often much better known. It is a fact that several European birds pass regularly through the Canary Islands in spring and autumn, which have never been taken in Africa south of that latitude.

Indicator conirostris conirostris *.

Melignomus conirostris Cassin, Proc. Acad. Philad. 1856, p. 156—Type locality: Moonda, Gaboon.

Indicator c. conirostris C. Grant, Ibis, 1915, p. 434; Bannerman, t. c. p. 489 [Cameroon Mt.].

All the examples of this species, eight in number, have been procured by Mr. Bates on the River Ja. He has now forwarded another pair from the same locality.

The wings in seven males measure 88–92 mm.; in three females, 79, 85, 85 mm.

The two specimens from the Gold Coast and Fantec, mentioned under *I. conirostris* in the Catalogue of Birds in the

* The notes on the species of the genera *Indicator*, *Melignomon*, and *Prodotiscus* were written by Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant in 1917.

British Museum (Vol. xix. p. 10), were separated by Sharpe as *I. ussheri* (cf. C. Grant, t. c. p. 434).

Indicator maculatus.

Indicator maculatus Gray, Gen. Birds, ii. 1847, p. 451—Type locality: not stated, [River Gambia] cf. specimen in Brit. Mus. Coll.; Sharpe, Ibis, 1907, p. 440.

We have received another adult male of this rare species, shot at Bitye on 2 June, 1910. It agrees entirely with the male example procured in July 1905 and also with the type specimen from the River Gambia. It has the feathers of the fore-part of the crown partially edged on the sides with yellowish-white, a character found in all the specimens and showing an approach to *I. variegatus*. It is easily distinguished from that species and from *I. stictithorax* by having the feathers of the breast and upper belly dull olive spotted with yellowish-white, but the spots are less regular than those of the chest. Two specimens, male and female, collected by the late Dr. Ansorge at Gunned, Portuguese Guinea, appear to be immature examples of this species.

Indicator exilis exilis.

Melignotheres exilis Cassin, Proc. Acad. Philad. 1856, p. 157—Type locality: Moonda River, Gaboon.

Indicator e. exilis C. Grant, Ibis, 1915, p. 434.

Mr. Bates has sent three more pairs of this species, all referable to the typical form from Gaboon.

The wings in three males measure respectively 70, 71, 72 mm.; in three females 67 mm.

Mr. Claude Grant (Ibis, 1915, p. 434) has stated that "the male differs from the female in having a well-defined white band at the base of the upper mandible and a black moustachial streak"; but in three specimens in the collection marked in this way the sex has been ascertained as *female* by Mr. Bates, Mr. Dent, and Dr. Ansorge respectively, three most reliable collectors.

Indicator stictithorax.

Indicator stictithorax Reihw. J. f. O. 1877, p. 110—Type locality: Cameroon; Sharpe, Ibis, 1907, p. 440.

Indicator theresæ Alexander, Bull. B. O. C. xxi. 1908, p. 90 [Gudima, River Iri].

Mr. Bates has sent another example of this species, an adult female from Bitye, River Ja. He had already procured three specimens at Kribi, of which two males taken in September are in the British Museum. The uniform dark olive crown, spotted breast, and streaked belly serve to distinguish this species from the nearly allied *I. maculatus* Gray.

I. theresæ Alexander, the type specimen of which from Gudima, River Iri, is in the British Museum, is synonymous with the present species. The type specimen has been marked a male by Alexander, but it seems certain from the small size of the bill that it must be a female: it agrees exactly with the female from Bitye sent by Mr. Bates.

Melignomon zenkeri Reichw.

Melignomon zenkeri Reichw. Vög. Afr. ii. 1902, p. 113—
Type locality: Yaunde, Cameroon.

Mr. Bates, who had previously sent a single male of this rare species, has now obtained five more, including examples of both sexes.

Cerioleptes robustus.

Melignomon robustus Bates, Bull. B. O. C. xxv. 1909, p. 26—Type locality: Bitye, River Ja, Cameroon.

Cerioleptes xenurus Chapin, Bull. Am. Mus. N. H. xxxiv. 1915, p. 512 — Type locality: Avakubi, Ituri District.

The Honey-guide described and figured by Mr. Chapin is obviously of the same species as that described by Mr. Bates under the name *Melignomon robustus*. Mr. Bates obtained a second female example at the same place, Bitye, River Ja, on the 29th of September, 1913. The type specimen of *M. robustus* shows the peculiarity of the tail-feathers figured by Mr. Chapin and mentioned by Mr. Bates when he modified the diagnosis of the genus *Melignomon* (*op. cit.* p. 27). Mr. Ogilvie-Grant did not accept the genus

Cerioleptes proposed by Mr. Chapin, but I consider that it must be kept up.

If Reichenow's genus *Melichneutes* (Orn. Monatsb. 1910, p. 160), founded on *M. sommerfeldi*, is, as I suspect, identical with Chapin's genus *Cerioleptes*, then Reichenow's name will take precedence.

***Prodotiscus insignis*.**

Heterodes insignis Cassin, Proc. Acad. Philad. 1856, p. 157—Type locality: Moonda River, Gaboon.

? *Prodotiscus emini* Shelley, P. Z. S. 1888, p. 43 [Bellima].

Two adult female examples procured by Mr. Bates at Bitey, River Ja, should be typical examples of *Heterodes insignis* Cassin, described from the Moonda River, Gaboon. It seems more than probable that the type specimen of *P. emini* Shelley (which came from Bellima in the Tingasi District and not from Wadelai as stated in the original description, cf. P. Z. S. 1888, p. 43) is a male of the present species. In the British Museum collection there is a female example from Nairobi, presented by Mr. A. B. Percival, which nearly resembles one of the adult females sent by Mr. Bates. He also sent a quite young female with the quills half-grown from the same locality. It would seem that the species ranges from the Lake District to West Africa, but our very small series does not afford sufficient evidence to determine this.

***Cuculus gabonensis gabonensis*.**

Cuculus gabonensis Lafresnaye, Rev. et Mag. Zool. 1853, p. 60—Type locality: Gaboon; Sharpe, Ibis, 1907, p. 436; Bates, Ibis, 1911, p. 500.

The valuable material now sent home by Mr. Bates, together with his notes on this species published in 'The Ibis' for 1911, throw considerable light on the complex plumage changes which the Gaboon Cuckoo undergoes between the stage of nestling and adult. Mr. Bates has already pointed this out, but his remarks are of such value that I wish to emphasise them again.

Messrs. Selater and Mackworth-Præd have recently

worked through what they term the *solitarius* group of Cuckoos in the British Museum, and published their conclusions on pp. 642, 643 of 'The Ibis,' 1919. They remark (*l. c.* p. 643) : "The relationship of the *solitarius* group with *C. clamosus*, the Black Cuckoo, which is also found all over Africa, is very obscure, as is also the relationship of *C. solitarius* and *C. gabonensis*. There appears to be a series of intermediate forms (which has been called *C. jacksoni*) between *C. clamosus* and *C. solitarius*. There is also a series of intermediate forms (called *C. mabiræ*) between *C. gabonensis* and *C. solitarius*. It is possible that these may be regarded either as three separate species intergrading in certain areas, or as three species in process of evolution from one form within those areas." I am not at all in agreement with these conclusions, believing *C. solitarius* to be a perfectly fixed race with very distinct young.

Cuculus gabonensis I believe to be also a fixed race with distinct young, having a subspecies *Cuculus gabonensis mabiræ*. I shall deal with the status of *C. clamosus* and *C. jacksoni* later.

I have now the entire fine series of these forms contained in the British Museum spread out before me in addition to certain specimens kindly lent to me, from Tring by Lord Rothschild and by Dr. van Someren from his private collection.

CUCULUS GABONENSIS GABONENSIS

To deal first with *Cuculus gabonensis gabonensis* : we possess fourteen examples in the British Museum showing the complete change of plumage as explained by Mr. Bates (Ibis, 1911, p. 501).

1. The first plumage is uniform black throughout (specimens Nos. 3898 and 3904).
2. The second is the transitional stage, some of the barred feathers of the underparts and some of the barred chestnut feathers of the throat are appearing amongst the black feathers ; the glossy feathers are appearing

on the back (specimens Nos. 3044, 3141, and the bird obtained by Bates at Efulen, B. M. Reg. No. 1903. 7.16.30, erroneously named *C. clamosus* by Sharpe in 'The Ibis' (1904, p. 614).

3. The third represents the almost adult stage; the underparts have lost all trace of the black feathers except on the thighs, the breast is creamy-buff barred with black and the chin and throat chestnut barred with black. The upper parts are glossy throughout (specimens Nos. 4411, 3616, 4091, and 951 [Bates Cameroon coll.], No. 14, *ex* Shelley coll. from Landana, and specimen 1919.10.12.46, Poko, Uele, Dr. C. Christy coll.).
4. In the fourth we see the fully adult bird which has lost all trace of barring on the throat, which is now uniform chestnut (specimens No. 4291 [Bates coll.]; No. 805, Landana [Shelley coll.]; and two birds collected in Gaboon, Danger R. [Ansell], "Gaboon" [Verreaux]). The ground-colour of the breast is creamy-buff, and the under tail-coverts are uniform buff, with little trace of barring.

The range of *C. g. gabonensis* appears to be from Cameroon, through Gaboon south to Landana just north of the mouth of the Congo River, and eastward to the northern Belgian Congo, Uele River district.

CUCULUS SOLITARIUS.

[*Cuculus solitarius* Stephens in Shaw's Gen. Zool. ix. 1815, p. 84—Type locality: Caffraria (*i. e.* Eastern Cape Colony) *ex* Levaillant.]

Next we will deal with *Cuculus solitarius*, another Cuckoo which ranges throughout Africa and occurs in Cameroon. Mr. Bates's last collection contains very young birds of this species, which shows that it should never be confused with *C. gabonensis*. In the British Museum we have a large series of this bird:—89 in adult plumage and 14 in

juvenile and immature plumage, besides a number sent to me by Dr. van Someren.

1. The first plumage of *C. solitarius* has the upper parts black (as in *C. gabonensis*), but each feather of the head, mantle, back, rump, and wing-coverts is narrowly fringed with white or buffish-white, most pronounced on the head and nape. There is a conspicuous white spot at the base of the head. The throat and chin are black, each feather narrowly margined with white; the breast and belly buff, strongly barred with black.
2. In the second stage the white margins to the feathers are less conspicuous; the breast and belly are white strongly barred with black, the under tail-coverts are white barred with black. On the upper surface the white spot at the base of the head is wider and more conspicuous, the rectrices are black, and the four white spots on the webs of the rectrices (including the central pair) have made their appearance—the latter an important character, as *C. solitarius* is the only Cuckoo of this complex group which has white markings on the webs of the central pair of tail-feathers. The white spot at the base of the head disappears entirely before the feathers of the upper parts lose their white edges.
3. Stage number three is very similar to the last, but the chestnut feathers of the throat are beginning to make their appearance, and the underparts are rather more buff and are more conspicuously barred. The head and rest of the upper parts are uniform, the white margins to the feathers having entirely disappeared.
4. The fourth stage shows the grey feathers of the throat appearing above the chestnut of the breast; the under tail-coverts are now distinctly buff, with a few indistinct bars.
5. In the fifth stage we see the adult bird with uniform dark grey upper parts, the conspicuous white markings on the webs of the rectrices including the middle pair;

pure light grey throat merging into chestnut on the breast; buff underparts uniformly banded with black; uniform buff under tail-coverts sometimes bearing a few dark spots or irregular bars, but more often entirely wanting in this respect.

The range of this Cuckoo seems to be Africa generally. In the British Museum we have specimens from :

South Africa (Cape Colony, Transvaal, Natal, Zululand).

East Africa (Portuguese E. Africa, British E. Africa, Abyssinia).

North-Central Africa (Sudan, Niam-Niam country, and north Belgian Congo).

West Africa (Portuguese Guinea, Gold Coast, Cameroon, Congo River, Angola).

CUCULUS CLAMOSUS and CUCULUS JACKSONI.

Thanks to Lord Rothschild, Sir Frederick Jackson, and Dr. van Someren, who have most kindly lent me all their specimens for comparison with the large series in the Natural History Museum, I have had ninety examples of *Cuculus clamosus* and *Cuculus jacksoni* from which to make my deductions, *i. e.* :—

Div. 1.	{	48 birds from Uganda, Brit. E. Africa, Equat. Great Lakes, S.E. Ethiopia, S. Abyssinia.
	{	12 birds from the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, N. Angola.
Div. 2.	{	10 birds from Nyasaland.
	{	20 birds from Cape Colony, Natal, Zambesi, Bechuanaland, Damaraland, Transvaal, South Rhodesia.

Unquestionably all birds in Division 2 are examples of *Cuculus clamosus*; and before we discuss examples from localities in Division 1, I wish to deal with the status and plumage of the South African Black Cuckoo.

CUCULUS CLAMOSUS.

[*Cuculus clamosus* Latham, Ind. Orn. ii. Suppl. 1801, p. xxx—Type locality: Cape of Good Hope.]

The South African Black Cuckoo is unfortunately not very well represented in the National Collection, as we have not any really young birds. We have twenty specimens from Cape Colony, Damaraland, Transvaal, Natal, Zambesi, and Southern Rhodesia; also ten specimens from Nyasaland, which I consider must be included with the typical form.

The juvenile and second plumage is apparently unknown, but we have a number of specimens showing the transition stage from the plumage just before the adult plumage is reached to the fully adult. In this not quite mature phase, of which we have twelve examples, the upper parts are already black, with a deep greenish-blue gloss as in adult specimens. The underparts, in what I take to be the three youngest examples before me (Reg. Nos. 89.6.25.112 and 89.6.25.113), two from Durban, one from Kingwilliamstown, are dusky blackish-brown, irregularly barred and in one specimen almost mottled (so indistinct is the barring) with grey and rufous. The under tail-coverts are black, barred distinctly but narrowly with pale rufous and white. The Kingwilliamstown bird is probably the youngest example, as it has the outer webs of the primaries distinctly barred, while in the elder of the Durban birds the primaries are uniform as in the adult.

From this plumage the birds gradually lose the barring on the underside; in several specimens it is only faintly indicated, and finally all trace of markings are lost and we see the adult plumage as in a specimen (No. 8994) from Durban and a bird from Natal (No. 79.4.5.395).

In one bird with almost uniform underparts but very heavily barred under tail-coverts there is a distinct indication of rufous on the breast.

I have purposely described specimens from South Africa (Natal and Cape Colony) as being undoubtedly typical, but

exactly the same changes of plumage are apparent in the ten birds from Nyasaland.

In dealing with examples of the Black Cuckoo from north-east and north-west Africa the problem is considerably complicated by the occurrence in Uganda, British East Africa, southern Abyssinia, and northern Angola of the bird known as *Cuculus jacksoni* Sharpe, immature examples of *Cuculus clamosus* having been confused by many workers with the young of *C. jacksoni*. Unfortunately both forms occur side by side in many districts—even in the same forests; and the very variable plumage exhibited by immature birds of *C. clamosus* has made the status of the two forms and the range which they occupy a difficult task to unravel.

From northern central Africa we have examples of the true Black Cuckoo from Uganda, British East Africa, southern Abyssinia, eastern Belgian Congo, the Galla country, Niam-Niam country, northern Angola, Gold Coast, and Sierra Leone. The adult black birds are indistinguishable from those from South Africa, and the immature specimens exhibit the same remarkable variety in the colour of the plumage—from the indistinctly barred birds with an indication of rufous appearing amongst the feathers of the breast to a curious grey bird in the collection of Sir Frederick Jackson.

CUCULUS JACKSONI.

[*Cuculus jacksoni* Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xiii. 1902, p. 7—
Type locality: Toro, Uganda.]

At first glance typical examples of *C. jacksoni* look like a very distinct Cuckoo, but the type is not quite adult. The upper parts are glossy blue-black as in *C. clamosus*, but the underparts are very dissimilar to any phase of plumage exhibited by South African specimens in the National Collection, and resemble much more nearly *C. y. gabonensis*. The breast is dark chestnut, the throat greyish, and the rest of the underside, from the chest to and including the under tail-coverts, is strikingly banded with black

and white. I have examples in this phase of plumage from Uganda, Brit. E. Africa, and S. Abyssinia, and from all these places black birds indistinguishable from adult *C. clamosus* from South Africa.

This led me to suppose that *C. clamosus* and *C. jacksoni* were very closely allied. As they appear to inhabit the same country, it is impossible to determine which immature birds are the young of *C. jacksoni*. Certainly the series of immature birds from Uganda resemble the immature specimens of *C. clamosus* from Natal and the rest of South Africa.

Until young birds are obtained of both forms we cannot definitely say more. The only fully-adult specimen of *C. jacksoni* in the British Museum is No. 1920.6.7.15, shot at Mpumu, Uganda, by Mr. L. M. Seth-Smith. It is distinguished from *C. gabonensis* by the more heavily barred under surface, the ground-colour of which is white and not cream, and by the uniformly banded under tail-coverts.

In other respects the adult bird of *C. jacksoni* resembles adult *C. gabonensis*, and had it not inhabited the same country as *C. g. mabiræ*, I believe the simplest plan would have been to include it as another subspecies of *C. gabonensis*. As it is, it must remain as a species.

Range. We have specimens of *C. jacksoni* in typical heavily barred plumage from southern Abyssinia, Bahr el Ghazâl, British East Africa, Uganda, and northern Angola.

CUCULUS GABONENSIS MABIRÆ.

[*Cuculus mabiræ* van Someren, Bull. B. O. C. xxxv. 1915, p. 116—Type locality : Mabira and Kasala Forests, Uganda.]

This bird I consider a subspecies of *Cuculus gabonensis*. Dr. van Someren has kindly forwarded me two birds for examination, and Dr. Hartert has sent me the type and another from Tring. The adult bird has glossy blue-black upper parts, pale chestnut throat and breast, and either uniform buffish-white or slightly barred underparts and uniform buff under tail-coverts. The immature of this bird is quite distinct ; the chestnut of the breast extends to the

throat and chin and is barred with black; the underparts are almost white, barred with black—giving the birds a much lighter appearance than *C. jacksoni*, with which it might at first sight have been confused.

I have one remarkable bird entirely black, but with several barred feathers still remaining in the breast and flanks—the barred feathers are *fresh* feathers, the black much worn, showing that the bird is changing from black plumage (?) of the young into the barred plumage. It is impossible to determine whether it is a young *jacksoni* or *mabiræ*. I am inclined to think the latter, as the feathers of the young of *gabouensis* are entirely black and in the adult become barred. This I believe to be a parallel case, but it is worthy of study by anyone working at this group. The specimen alluded to is a male obtained by Mr. L. M. Seth-Smith at Mpumu, Uganda, on the 28th of July, 1912, Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1913.7.16.31.

At first I believed that this was *C. jacksoni* turning into a black bird, but on closer examination along with Mr. H. F. Witherby of the feathers, he drew my attention to the fact that the barred feathers were new, the black feathers old, and in these conclusions I agree. The young of either *C. jacksoni* or *C. mabiræ* are therefore black. It is not an example of *C. clamosus*.

The range of this Cuckoo is not yet known apparently. The type came from the Kasala Forest and the other specimens from Mabira and Bugoma in Uganda. There are three birds in the Jackson collection from the Mabira and Bugoma Forests. The subspecies is not represented in the British Museum.

***Pachycoccyx validus*.**

Cuculus validus Reichw. Orn. Centralbl. 1879, p. 139—
Type locality: Muniuni, Tana River, British East Africa.

Pachycoccyx validus Sharpe, Ibis, 1907, p. 435; Bates, Ibis, 1911, p. 499.

Two specimens of this rare Cuckoo were obtained (Nos. 5939 and 4220), and have been presented to the British

Museum. There are now three birds in the collection obtained by Mr. Bates on the River Ja. No. 4220 has already been recorded by Mr. Bates (*l. c.*). It has a remarkably mottled appearance, due to the feathers of the crown, mantle, greater and lesser coverts, primaries and secondaries, upper tail-coverts and tail being broadly tipped with white. The adult bird is uniformly coloured blackish brown on the entire upper parts. As Mr. Bates has already remarked, the bird, though in such spotted plumage, is not very young—the wing measures 220 mm.—and had evidently itself caught the numerous insects which were contained in its stomach.

Pachycoccyx validus ranges from British East Africa south to Nyasaland, across the Belgian Congo to Cameroon, Gaboon, and northern Angola. It has also been obtained in two widely separated localities in the late German Togoland according to Reichenow.

Chrysococcyx flavigularis.

Chrysococcyx flavigularis Shelley, P. Z. S. 1879, p. 679, pl. 50—Type locality: Gold Coast; Sharpe, Ibis, 1907, p. 437; Bates, Ibis, 1911, p. 502.

Mr. Bates's collection contains four more examples of this extremely rare Golden Cuckoo, all obtained during the month of December in 1908, 1913, and 1914. Two are females, but the sex of the other two has been ascertained as males. In plumage they closely resemble the female, and must therefore be young birds, as the adult male is a very distinct-looking bird. There is no indication of the yellow throat in either specimen, the entire under surface being narrowly barred as in the female.

Cercococcyx mechowii wellsi.

Cercococcyx mechowii wellsi Bannerman, Bull. B. O. C. xl. 1919, p. 7—Type locality: River Ja, Cameroon.

Cercococcyx mechowii Sharpe, Ibis, 1907, p. 436; Bates, Ibis, 1909, p. 15.

This race of Mechow's Cuckoo has been named by me in

honour of Mr. Wells, of the bird-room, British Museum, who first drew my attention to the differences between the Cameroon and Angola birds. We have in the British Museum collection a good series of birds from Uganda, the Belgian Congo, Cameroon, northern Angola, the Gold Coast, and a single bird from Nyasaland. When these birds are laid out in geographical order, it is at once apparent that two forms are represented, but the distribution of the two is at first puzzling.

To begin with, Cabanis (J. f. O. 1882, p. 230) described *Cercococcyx mechowi* from Angola from a specimen obtained by Major von Mechow. No particulars are given as to the exact place where Mechow obtained his type, but I have ascertained that this German traveller made an expedition into northern Angola and published a large-scale map (Karte der Kuango-Expedition) in 1884 at Berlin. A copy of this may be seen in the map-room of the Royal Geographical Society. Von Mechow appears to have ascended the Kuansa River and prepared the sheets of his map from Dondo to Malange, where he left the Kuansa River and trekked northwards, joining the headwaters of the Cambo River. This river he followed to Tembo-Aluma, where the Cambo joins the Zaida-Kuango. Thence he proceeded by way of the Kuango to Camalamba. No connected account of his journey seems to have been published. We have six birds in the British Museum from northern Angola collected by the late Dr. Ansorge at N'dalo Tando (a place situated on the line between St. Paul de Loando and Kassandje), and these are very different from specimens collected in Cameroon and in Uganda.

Unfortunately the original description by Cabanis of *C. mechowi* does not accurately fit either the Angola or the Cameroon and Uganda birds; but as the genus *Cercococcyx* was founded on Mechow's specimen obtained in Angola, we must restrict *Cercococcyx mechowi mechowi* to Angola specimens.

These Angola birds, *C. m. mechowi* Cabanis, have the upper parts greyish brown, strongly washed with copper-

colour, the coppery gloss being very apparent in certain lights. The underparts are buffish white, the throat, breast, and flanks narrowly banded with blackish, each feather having a narrow subterminal bar. On the belly the bars are either entirely wanting or only faintly indicated. The under tail-coverts are barred in four out of six specimens to a lesser or greater extent.

These birds from Angola have only recently been incorporated in the National Collection, and hence former workers have been unable to compare birds from other parts of Africa with typical specimens. Had they been able to do so, they would have seen that a very noticeable difference exists between them.

We have in the British Museum twenty-one skins from other parts of Africa—13 birds from Cameroon collected by Mr. Bates (6 in old collections, 7 in the present series), 4 from Uganda and Ruwenzori, 3 from the Gold Coast, and one from Nyasaland. I have also examined one bird from Poko on the Uelle River (Christy coll.).

First, to deal with the series from Cameroon, Uganda, and Ruwenzori, which I have named *C. m. wellsi*:—These birds differ from *C. m. mechowi* in having the upper parts slate-brown, a distinct dark bluish grey taking the place of the copper colour. The most noticeable difference is, however, on the under surface, which in *C. m. wellsi* is whitish or buffish white, closely banded with brownish black, the bars much wider and closer together than in *C. m. mechowi*. The under tail-coverts are generally unbarred or unspotted, but this, as in the Angola bird, is subject to variation.

We have still to deal with birds from the Gold Coast, of which I have only three specimens; and these, while exhibiting the coppery gloss of *C. m. mechowi*, which they resemble on the upper parts, have the under surface closely barred (though not quite so heavily) as in *C. m. wellsi*. With such small material I can only point out the somewhat intermediate position which the Gold Coast birds seem to hold.

There remains the bird from Nyasaland. It is quite a young female, the upper parts barred with rufous and brown

and the underparts heavily banded. The species to which it belongs may very possibly be new, but, without adult examples, must remain indeterminable. We must, however, recognise

1. *CERCOCOCCYX MECHOWI MECHOWI* Cabanis : restricted to Angola ;
2. *CERCOCOCCYX MECHOWI WELLSI* Bannerman : Cameroon (typical), Belgian Congo, Uganda, Ruwenzori ;
and perhaps
3. *CERCOCOCCYX MECHOWI* ? subsp. : Gold Coast ;
4. *CERCOCOCCYX*, sp. or subsp. indeterminable : S. Angoniland, Nyasaland ;
5. *CERCOCOCCYX MECHOWI OLIVINUS* Sassi, which I have not seen.

Caprimulgus europæus europæus.

Caprimulgus europæus Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 193—Type locality : Sweden.

I mention a bird of this species which Mr. Bates shot on the 8th of December, 1913, as there are far too few references to European migrants in ornithological literature to allow us to omit to record any really authentic specimen.

Caprimulgus inornatus.

Caprimulgus inornatus Heuglin, Orn. Nordost-Afrika's, i. 1869, p. 129—Type locality : Bogosland.

No. 3422. ♀. Bitye, River Ja, 13 February, 1909.

No. 5168. ♂. Bitye, River Ja, 14 December, 1912.

Specimen No. 3422 has already been recorded by Mr. Bates (*Ibis*, 1911, p. 516) as *Macrodipteryx macrodipterus*, but I do not think there can be any question but that Mr. Bates has identified his bird wrongly. Without a large series for comparison it would have been impossible to name this Nightjar, which, as has already been pointed out, is not fully grown. Curiously enough, another example of this Nightjar, which has never previously been taken in Cameroon, was secured by Mr. Bates in 1912. In this bird the head, scapulars, and upper tail-coverts are strongly

marked with pinkish. In the series in the British Museum of forty specimens several are in the entire reddish phase out of which specimen No. 5168 is passing.

The range of *C. inornatus* seems to be very peculiar if all the skins in the National Collection have been correctly identified. The following localities are represented there:—Southern Arabia, Bahr el Ghazal, Somaliland, Abyssinia, British East Africa, Uganda, northern Belgian Congo.

Alexander obtained the bird at Angu on the Uelle River and also on the Ubangi River in the Congo region. It is worthy of note that all the specimens obtained in the Belgian Congo and Cameroon were shot during the winter months, November to February.

The occurrence of this Nightjar in Cameroon is of special interest.

Caprimulgus binotatus.

Caprimulgus binotatus Bonaparte, Conspect. Gen. Av. 1850, p. 60—Type locality: Daboerom, Gold Coast; Sharpe, Ibis, 1904, p. 612; Bates, Ibis, 1911, p. 516.

Mr. Bates has now sent two more examples of this extremely rare and interesting Nightjar, and with great generosity has presented them with other rare things to the British Museum.

He had already procured a single male bird at Efulen in March 1902, and this bird, which is in the National Collection, was duly recorded and commented upon by the late Dr. Sharpe (*l. c.*). The next specimen (No. 4107) was obtained at Bitye, River Ja, on the 19th of February, 1910, and is likewise a male—the occurrence of this particular bird has already been noted by Mr. Bates (Ibis, 1911, p. 516). In this paper Mr. Bates remarked that in specimen 4107 there was a distinct diagonal buff band on the feathers of the scapulars, and expressed his opinion that these characters were distinguishing marks of the male sex, “supposing the original description to have been made from a female.” In this surmise Mr. Bates is perfectly correct, as he has now himself proved by securing yet a third example—a female

this time—on the 9th of March, 1915, at Bitye. This bird lacks any trace of the diagonal bar on the scapulars.

The most remarkable character exhibited by this Nightjar is the entire absence of spots on the inner web of the quills, which are uniformly coloured, and as Dr. Sharpe pointed out when the first of Mr. Bates's specimens came under his notice, resembles in this respect *C. concretus* of Borneo.

The wing-measurements of Mr. Bates's three specimens are as follows:—

♂ (Efulen), 153 mm.; ♂ (No. 4107, Bitye), 141 mm. (barely); ♀ (No. 5942, Bitye), 148 mm.

Caprimulgus binotatus is recorded only from Cameroon and from the Gold Coast (Dabocrom) [Hartlaub, J. f. O. 1855, p. 355].

Caprimulgus batesi.

Caprimulgus batesi Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xix. 1906, p. 18—Type locality: River Ja, Cameroon.

Caprimulgus batesi Sharpe, Ibis, 1907, p. 432; Bates, Ibis, 1909, p. 25.

We had already received four adult specimens of Bates's Nightjar, collected on the River Ja in January, March, July, and August, at the British Museum. The present collection includes four adult birds collected at Bitye in February, July, and August. Numbers 3481 and 4936 are retained for the National Collection.

Cosmetornis vexillarius.

Semeiophorus vexillarius Gould, Icones Avium, 1838, pl. 13—Type locality: Sierra Leone.

Cosmetornis vexillarius Sharpe, Ibis, 1907, p. 432; Bates, Ibis, 1909, p. 26.

There are three specimens of the Pennant-winged Nightjar in the present collection (Nos. 4140, 5987, 5947), all of which were obtained in March 1910, 1914, and 1915. No. 4140 is a male with the white belly barred with brown, while the other two are females. These are not the three birds mentioned by Mr. Bates (*l. c.*) and already recorded by Sharpe

(*l. c.*), but it is noteworthy that all six birds were obtained in March "at the end of the dry season," as Mr. Bates tells us in his paper. *C. vexillarius* apparently only visits this part of Cameroon at this time of year.

In an interesting footnote Messrs. Selater and Praed (Ibis, 1919, p. 659) point out that we may accept as the type of this species a bird in the British Museum collection, Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 55/12/19/63, obtained by James Barlow, Esq., from Sierra Leone. From information on the label it appears to have been the bird originally described by Gould. I agree with Messrs. Selater and Praed that we may accept this bird as the type of the species.

Merops persicus chrysocercus.

Merops chrysocercus Cabanis & Heine, Mus. Hein. ii. 1860, p. 139—Type locality: Senegal.

The two specimens obtained by Mr. Bates at Akonolinga, Nyong River, do not belong to the typical race but to *M. persicus chrysocercus*. There is a specimen in the British Museum named by Dr. Hartert *M. p. chrysocercus* from Oued Nea, which almost exactly resembles Mr. Bates's bird (No. 5272) both in the colouring of the upper parts and in the length of the two middle tail-feathers. The back has not got the golden wash ascribed to this species. The second specimen obtained by Mr. Bates is immature. I cannot find that Mr. Bates has obtained this Blue-cheeked Bec-eater previously in Cameroon.

Melittophagus gularis australis.

Meropiscus gularis australis Reichw. J. f. O. 1885, p. 222—Type locality: Gaboon and Cameroon.

Melittophagus australis Sharpe, Ibis, 1904, p. 611; 1905, p. 465; 1907, p. 431; Bates, Ibis, 1908, p. 564.

Melittophagus gularis australis Bates, Ibis, 1909, p. 24.

Without counting the two birds from Bitye which Mr. Bates obtained in 1909 and 1910, there are seven other specimens in the British Museum from Cameroon which Mr. Bates obtained at Efulen and on the Ja River. These

all show the characters which Reichenow assigned to this race. In no single specimen is there any trace of the pale blue eyebrow streak as in *M. g. gularis*, and in all but two the feathers of the breast are streaked intermittently with red.

In addition to the specimens obtained by Mr. Bates in Cameroon, there are in the British Museum two birds from north Angola obtained by the late Dr. Ansorge and eight birds from the northern Belgian Congo (Uele River and Aruwimi River districts). There is no question but that these birds belong to the southern form *M. g. australis*. ✓

Besides the specimens enumerated we have five birds from Gaboon, and here we are faced with a difficulty. Reichenow (*Vögel Afrikas*, ii. p. 313) calls the Gaboon bird *M. g. australis*, and obviously this should be the case; but of the five birds before me, three at any rate are inseparable from typical *M. g. gularis*, having the wide pale blue eyebrow streak and no indication of red on the feathers of the breast. On the other hand, two other specimens from Gaboon have the characters of *M. g. australis* clearly shown. Had the specimens similar to the typical form been secured in Cameroon and not in Gaboon (two were collected by Du Chaillu and the other is from the Gould collection), it would have been easier to explain their presence than is the case now.

Melittophagus variegatus variegatus.

Merops variegatus Vieill. *Nouv. Diet. d'Hist. Nat.* vol. xiv. 1817, p. 25—Type locality: Malimbe, Loango.

The five adult specimens of the Variegated Bee-eater are the first which Mr. Bates has sent home from Cameroon, and it is noteworthy that all were obtained by him in January 1913 on the Nyong River at a place called Akonolinga. Mr. Claude Grant figured a race of this Bee-eater from Rhodesia (*Ibis*, 1915, p. 297, pl. iv.), and in the text of his paper remarks that most specimens of *M. v. variegatus* from western Africa "have no superciliary stripe or only an incomplete one," noting, however, that he was unable to handle a sufficient number of well-collected specimens from

the west. The five beautiful skins in Mr. Bates's present collection show the blue superciliary stripe very distinctly.

With the material available I do not feel inclined to accept Mearns's name for the East African race which that ornithologist considered separable from the typical race.

The range of *M. v. variegatus* seems to be as indicated by Mr. C. Grant in his paper quoted.

Eurystomus gularis neglectus.

Eurystomus gularis neglectus Neumann, Orn. Monatsber. xvi. 1908, p. 28—Type locality: Canhoça, Angola; Bates, Ibis, 1911, p. 510.

Eurystomus gularis Sharpe, Ibis, 1904, p. 606.

Having compared the series of *E. gularis* in the British Museum, I agree that the two races must be recognised. In the series before me the distribution seems to be as follows:—

E. gularis gularis. Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, and Northern Nigeria.

E. gularis neglectus. Southern Nigeria, Cameroon, Gaboon, Angola, Belgian Congo.

E. g. neglectus are certainly more violet-coloured on the under surface than typical specimens, and most of the ten specimens examined have a distinct violet wash on the basal half of the two middle tail-feathers, although, as instanced by specimen No. 3262 and pointed out by Mr. Bates himself (Ibis, 1911, p. 606), this character is not always present.

Agapornis zenkeri.

Agapornis zenkeri Reichw. Orn. Monatsber. 1895, p. 19—Type locality: Yaunde, Cameroon; Sharpe, Ibis, 1904, p. 605; Bates, Ibis, 1905, p. 89.

The present collection contains three examples of this little Parrot [Nos. 4285, 4290, and 5496], which Mr. Bates tells us (Ibis, 1911, p. 497) were shot amongst others "with bows and arrows." Specimens of this Parrot have been obtained by Mr. Bates in Cameroon at Efulen and at Bitey, River Ja. Reichenow (Vögel Afrikas, ii. p. 19) gives only

two localities from which specimens were then known, Yaunde and Manjema. The first-named town is, of course, in Cameroon, while Manjema is in the Belgian Congo immediately west of the northern end of Lake Tanganyika. Recently this bird was obtained by Dr. Christy at Bosabangi in the Belgian Congo and at Poko on the Uele River. There are also two specimens in the British Museum from Bompona on the Congo River. It appears, therefore, that this little Parrot extends its range right across central Africa from Cameroon to the eastern boundary of the Belgian Congo. Judging from the few specimens which travellers and collectors have brought back, it must be either very rare or very locally distributed.

Accipiter sharpei.

Accipiter sharpei Reichw. Vög. Afr. i. 1901, p. 564—Type locality: [? Gaboon]; Sharpe, Ibis, 1904, p. 101.

Accipiter batesi Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xiii. 1903, p. 50.

The present collections contain two additional specimens of this beautiful little Hawk—a male [No. 4663] shot on the 25th of December, 1911, and another male [No. 4926] shot on the 6th of August, 1912, at Bitye (2000 ft.). Unfortunately Mr. Bates failed to secure a female.

The bird which Sharpe named *A. batesi* is said by Mr. W. L. Sclater to be the female of *A. hartlaubi sharpei*. Including this latter bird, which was procured at Efulen, Cameroon, there were hitherto only three specimens in the British Museum—a male from Gaboon and a male collected by Bates at Efulen in May 1903.

I am doubtful whether *sharpei* and *batesi* will prove to be synonymous. Certainly the two birds were procured from localities not far separated from one another. Only further material can settle this point satisfactorily.

Buteo auguralis.

Buteo auguralis Salvad. Atti Soc. Ital. viii. 1865, p. 377—Type locality: Abyssinia.

The female shot on the 2nd of March, 1915, at Bitye

seems to be the first record of this species from Cameroon.

We have specimens in the British Museum from the Egyptian Sudan and Abyssinia in the east, and from Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, French Congo, and Portuguese Congo in the west.

Spizaëtus africanus.

Limnaëtus africanus Cassin, Proc. Acad. Philad. 1865, p. 4—Type locality: Ogobai River, Gaboon.

The only specimen which Mr. Bates procured of this rare bird—a male shot on the 16th of December, 1913, at Bitye, R. Ja—was described by Mr. W. L. Sclater (Bull. B. O. C. xxxix. p. 87) as *Spizaëtus batesi*, sp. nov. Mr. Sclater had then overlooked the fact that what must evidently be the same bird had been already described by Cassin; but he discovered and corrected his mistake himself in the following number of the 'Bulletin' (vol. xxxix. pp. 93, 94).

Pteronetta hartlaubi.

Querquedula hartlaubi Cassin, Proc. Acad. Philad. 1859, p. 175—Type locality: Camma and Ogobai (Gaboon).

Pteronetta hartlaubi Sharpe, Ibis, 1904, p. 98, 1907, p. 425; Bates, Ibis, 1909, p. 6, 1911, p. 482.

Pteronetta hartlaubi albifrons Neumann, Bull. B. O. C. xxi. 1908, p. 42.

In 1908 Oscar Neumann gave a name to the form of Hartlaub's Duck from the Upper Congo, Ituri, and Uele Rivers, naming it *P. h. albifrons*. He separated it from typical examples of *P. hartlaubi* (Cassin) on account of adults of both sexes having "a large white patch on the forehead, extending to the middle of the vertex," noting "in the West-African form the females never had any white on the head, but in the males there were sometimes a few white feathers on the forehead."

In 'The Ibis,' 1911, p. 482, Mr. Bates makes the following interesting observation:—"Male specimens (Nos. 3661 and 4143) from Cameroon have a *small* white spot on the fore-

head at the base of the bill, but have not nearly so much white as the birds which Neumann has called *P. h. albifrons* (Bull. B. O. C. xxi. p. 42). All my female examples (Nos. 29, 33, 4142, and 4459) have either no white or a very faint 'ticking' of white on the forehead. This white spot is a sexual marking of the male, which is beginning to be acquired by fully adult or old females; it is more developed in birds from the Upper Congo region than in those from the West Coast."

Mr. Bates has now forwarded the birds mentioned in the above note to England, together with three male birds (Nos. 4592, 4664, and 5543) which he obtained since writing in 'The Ibis' for 1911. The series which are now before me clearly show that Neumann was in error in thinking the white patch of the forehead a subspecific character. Mr. Bates was clearly right when he pointed this out, although it does not appear to be confined to the male bird alone. The three male birds above noted have an equally large (if not larger) white patch at the base of the bill as any birds from the northern Belgian Congo, specimens of which, named *albifrons*, in Mr. Neumann's own handwriting, are in the British Museum. It is therefore clearly not more developed, as Mr. Bates suggested, in birds from the Congo than in West Coast examples.

As to this patch being a sexual character of the male, an examination of Mr. Bates's birds from Cameroon would lead one to think that this was the case; there are, however, adult females in the National Collection from the Congo district showing as much white at the base of the bill as any males I have examined.

The fine series now sent home by Mr. Bates includes two beautiful downy nestlings.

The range of this species appears to be Sierra Leone (*Kelsall*), Liberia (*Pye-Smith*), N. Belgian Congo, Boma (*Harrison*), Uele River (*B. Alexander*), Tingasi (*Emin Pasha*), Ituri Forest (*Camburn*), Gaboon (*Du Chailly*), S. Cameroon (*Bates*). Reichenow, Vög. Afrikas, i. p. 123, includes other localities in the districts mentioned here.

Lampribis rara.

Lampribis rara Rothsch., Hart., & Kleinschm., Nov. Zool. iv. 1897, p. 377—Type locality: Denkera, Gold Coast.

In 'The Ibis,' 1914, pp. 622-626, I attempted to disentangle the confusion into which *Lampribis rara* and *Lampribis olivacea* had fallen. I then showed that *Ibis olivacea* Du Bus ought not to have been confused with *L. rara*; and I then accepted the following as the range of these two very distinct species:—

L. rara. Ashanti, Cameroon, Upper Congo.

L. olivacea. Prince's Isl., St. Thomas Isl., Cameroon, and the coast of Guinea.

Further material has induced me to considerably alter the views then expressed with regard to the range of these two birds, but all I wrote as regards the confusion of the two forms I now stand by. My paper was apparently overlooked by Dr. Chapman when in Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. xxxi. 1912, p. 235, he gives a description of a bird obtained by Du Chaillu on the Muni River, which is obviously a specimen of *Lampribis rara*, and calls it erroneously *Lampribis olivacea*, Elliot's wrongly named figure (P. Z. S. 1877, pl. li.) leading him into the same error which I tried to correct in 1914.

Unfortunately, when I wrote about these Ibises in 'The Ibis' (*l. c.*), I myself overlooked a much more important paper, written by Reichenow (Orn. Monatsber. xi. 1903, pp. 132-136).

In this paper Reichenow reviews the forms and recognises four different birds:—

1. *Lampribis rara*, from the Gold Coast to Angola.
2. *Lampribis splendidus*, from Liberia.
3. *Lampribis cupreipennis*, from Cameroon.
4. *Lampribis olivaceus*, from Prince's Island and St. Thomas.

1. LAMPTRIBIS RARA.

Lampribis rara Rothsch., Hart., and Kleinschm.

[Nov. Zool. iv. p. 377. Type loc.: Denkera, Gold Coast. Type specimen in the British Museum, collected by Ussher 5/11/71.]

As the authors of this species named Ussher's bird from Denkera, specimens from the Gold Coast must bear the above name. The bird is figured in P. Z. S. 1877, p. 477, pl. li., and there erroneously named *Ibis olivacea*.

We have only specimens from the Gold Coast, Cameroon, and the Upper Congo in the British Museum; while Reichenow records it from Gaboon and Angola in addition.

2. LAMPTRIBIS SPLENDIDUS.

Lampribis splendidus Salvadori, Ibis, 1903, pp. 184-185—
Type locality: Liberia.

I have not seen specimens of this Ibis, but a complete description of the bird is given by Salvadori (*l. c.* p. 185). From the description the Liberian bird seems to be more nearly allied to *L. olivacea* than to the spotted-breasted *Lampribis rara*. We have no examples of this bird in the British Museum. It may be only a subspecies of *Lampribis olivacea*.

[LAMPTRIBIS CUPREIPENNIS.

Theristicus cupreipennis Reichenow, Orn. Monatsber. xi. 1903, p. 134—Type locality: Cameroon.

In the 'Ornithologische Monatsberichte' for 1903, Reichenow gives a description of a bird which he obtained from Cameroon, and which he named *L. cupreipennis*. The description agrees with a bird in the British Museum, which was obtained by Mr. G. L. Bates at Efulen, Cameroon (No. 158), on the 19th of May, 1903, and which in 'The Ibis,' 1914, p. 623, I referred to *Lampribis olivacea*, thinking it might be an immature example of that bird. At first sight, therefore, it would appear that we must call the Cameroon bird *Lampribis cupreipennis* of Reichenow, but before we accept this name for the uniform-breasted, bronze-winged, short-billed Ibis from Cameroon, let us examine the next species; *L. olivacea*, mentioned by Dr. Reichenow in his paper (*l. c.*), of which species we shall find that *L. cupreipennis* is a synonym!]

3. LAMPTRIBIS OLIVACEA.

Ibis olivacea Du Bus, Bull. Acad. Roy. Sci. Belg. 1837, p. 105, pl. iv., et Esquisses Ornithologiques, 1845, p. 5, pl. iii.—Type locality : “La côte de Guinea.”

The Coast of Guinea! Clearly this is the type locality of *Lampribis olivacea* and not Prince's Island, so that if it is proved that the Prince's Island bird and the bird from the mainland are different, the name *Lampribis olivacea* (Du Bus) must apply to the mainland bird, and the Prince's Island bird requires a new name. This I named in the ‘Bulletin’ of the British Ornithologists’ Club, vol. xl. 1919, pp. 4–7, to which I must refer the reader; and in this paper, as the Prince's Island bird was left without a name, I named it *Lampribis rothschildi*, and made the type an adult male in the Genoa Museum, collected on the 26th of January, 1901, by Leonardo Fea at Infante d'Henrique, Principe. I have given a full description of this bird in the ‘Bulletin’ (*l. c.* p. 7), and will not therefore repeat it here.

Briefly, then, we have the following forms in this genus in West Africa :—

LAMPTRIBIS RARA. Gold Coast (terra typica), Cameroon, Gaboon, and Upper Congo.

LAMPTRIBIS OLIVACEA. The Coast of Guinea (terra typica), S. Cameroon.

LAMPTRIBIS ROTHSCILDI. Prince's Island (terra typica), St. Thomas Island.

LAMPTRIBIS SPLENDIDUS. Liberia (terra typica).

Nycticorax leuconotus.

Ardea leuconotus Wagl. Syst. Av. 1827, p. 189 (sp. 33)—Type locality; Senegambia.

Nycticorax leuconotus Bates, Ibis, 1911, p. 485.

The immature male Heron (No. 4042) which Mr. Bates obtained at Bitye on the 29th of November, 1909, can be none other than *N. leuconotus*, to which species he correctly assigned it in ‘The Ibis’ (*supra*). It is quite a young bird, but is not nearly so spotted on the wing-coverts as other young birds of *N. leuconotus* in the British Museum.

Phalaropus fulicarius.

Tringa fulicaria Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 148
—Type locality: Hudson Bay.

The interesting occurrence of the Grey Phalarope in Cameroon is worth recording here. Mr. Bates shot a male at Bitye on the 27th of March, 1912. The Grey Phalarope is said in the B. O. U. List of British Birds to be an accidental visitor to North-West Africa; nothing is said of its ranging in Africa down the west coast. The present is the most southerly record of which I am aware. Mr. P. R. Lowe obtained it at sea near the Cape Verde Islands and Mr. C. Chubb has recorded it from Liberia.

Canirallus oculus batesi.

Canirallus batesi Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. x. 1900, p. lvi.—
Type locality: Rio Bénito, French Congo; Sharpe, Ibis, 1904, p. 95.

Sharpe separated as a distinct species the Rail, inhabiting the French Congo and Cameroon, from the allied *Canirallus oculus* of the Gold Coast. In any case *C. batesi* is but a subspecies of *C. oculus*, and indeed is so close to that form that Reichenow unites all birds from Liberia to the Congo under one name. I do not think he is correct in doing so, as the Gold Coast birds, of which we have five specimens in the British Museum, are distinctly paler olive-green on the upper parts, with less of a rufous tinge than is exhibited by most of the birds from Cameroon and the Rio Bénito.

The two birds just sent home by Mr. Bates are a male and female (Nos. 4671 and 4426). The female is much more rufous on the neck and nape than the male, which is more olive above and has the underparts paler reddish-chestnut than the female.

Himantornis hæmatopus hæmatopus.

Himantornis hæmatopus Hartl. J. f. O. 1855, p. 357—Type locality: Dabocrom, Gold Coast; Sharpe, Ibis, 1904, p. 95, 1907, p. 421; Bates, Ibis, 1911, p. 483.

Three more examples of this bird have now been sent by Mr. Bates to the Museum. It will interest him to know that we have recently acquired, through the kindness of the Belgian authorities, a further example of the rare rufous-backed *Himantornis hamatopus whitesidei* Sharpe, obtained by Dr. Christy at Poko on the Uele River, Belgian Congo—the first since the type was discovered.

***Sarothrura elegans reichenovi*.**

Sarothrura reichenovi Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xxiii. 1894, p. 121—Type locality: Cameroon; Bates, Ibis, 1909, p. 7.

With a series of sixteen males and females from south-east Africa and from Cameroon before me, I have been able to form an opinion on the validity of *S. reichenovi*.

I consider that it must be kept as a subspecies of *S. elegans*, the Natal form, and that Sharpe's original description of *S. reichenovi* is very misleading.

The three male birds of *S. e. reichenovi* sent home by Mr. Bates, together with the four specimens he had sent in former collections, has enabled me to satisfy myself that the above comparison is correct.

Dr. Reichenow did not recognise this form himself (Vögel Afrikas, i. p. 287), but I am sure that he will do so on further examination, provided that he has plenty of material, as also will Mr. Chapin.

Sharpe maintained that it was "everywhere much darker in colour" than *S. elegans*, "the rufous of the head and breast being deep chestnut instead of orange-rufous, this chestnut colour extending over the whole throat to the base of the bill." I have now five adult males from Cameroon to compare with the seven adult males from Natal, and in only one bird from Cameroon (No. 4620) is the chestnut of the throat and breast darker than in any of the Natal specimens. The females are practically indistinguishable. I measured the wings, thinking there might be something in the size, but males from Cameroon measure 85–90 mm.; from Natal, 80–88 mm.

A comparison of Sharpe's description with actual specimens is therefore very misleading, and without a series of both forms one would be inclined to say that *S. reichenovi* and *S. elegans* are synonymous.

A closer examination, however, reveals the fact that these two Rails, as might certainly be expected from their distribution, are separable on characters which Sharpe overlooked. Dr. van Someren pointed out the differences to me, and they are plainly visible:—

The spots on the back of *S. e. reichenovi* are less numerous and less sandy-coloured than in *S. e. elegans*; the bill is also shorter and heavier. These characters serve to distinguish the two forms from one another.

Besides the Cameroon and Natal specimens, we have in the British Museum a single female which closely resembles the female of this species from Mubinde, Uganda, but which may prove to be separable when further material is available, or it may be the female of *S. e. loringi*.

The present range appears to be very doubtful—Uganda and Cameroon.

We have, therefore:—

SAROTHRURA ELEGANS ELEGANS (Smith)—Type locality:
Port Natal. *Range.* Natal.

SAROTHRURA ELEGANS REICHENOVII Sharpe—Type locality:
Cameroon. *Range.* Cameroon and ? Uganda.

SAROTHRURA ELEGANS BURYI Ogilvie-Grant—Type locality:
Dubar. *Range.* Wagga Mountains, N. Somaliland.

SAROTHRURA ELEGANS LORINGI Mearns*—Type locality:
Mt. Kenia. *Range.* ? Kenya Colony.

We have only a single female (the type) of *S. buryi*; but I feel certain that when the male is discovered, it will prove to be a subspecies of *S. elegans*, and I therefore include the Somaliland bird as a subspecies of the Natal bird.

* I have not seen the type or any specimens of *S. e. loringi* Mearns [Smithson. Miscell. Coll. 65. No. 13. 1915, p. 8], and include it here on the opinion of Mr. Chapin of the American Museum of Natural History.

Sarothrura pulchra subsp.

Examination of the Rails formerly named *Sarothrura pulchra* (Gray) reveals the interesting fact that there are apparently three or four distinct races of this form, as has already been pointed out by Neumann. The type of *Crex pulchra* Gray [Griffith's Cuv. Anim. King. vol. viii. Aves, p. 410] is in the British Museum. It is an adult male, but the sex was not ascertained. The only locality on the label is "Africa." In the Catalogue of Birds, vol. xxiii. p. 117, "West Africa" is supplemented for the locality from which it was obtained. In the original description no type locality is mentioned.

The next mention of this Rail is in Gray's Zool. Miscell. 1831, p. 13, where no locality is mentioned either.

Gray therefore does not himself designate a type locality for this species.

The first mention of a locality from which this Rail has been obtained is given, prior to Gray's work appearing, by Latham in his 'History of Birds,' vol. ix. 1824, p. 379, where, under the English heading, "Rufous-headed Rail," he gives the description of a female bird which he says inhabits Sierra Leone. This description can only apply to the female of *Sarothrura pulchra*, and we may therefore accept Sierra Leone as the first designated locality of this species.

It is next noted by Swainson in his 'Birds of West Africa,' 1837, p. 243, but again no particular habitat is mentioned.

There is only one other name for this Rail, i. e. *Rallus cinnamomeus* Lesson [Rev. Zool. 1840, p. 99], where the bird from Casamance (Portuguese Guinea) is thus designated.

I have not seen a single specimen from Sierra Leone, but there can be little doubt that it is the same as the Gold Coast bird which we know to be *S. pulchra* of Gray (*cf.* Schlegel, Mns. Pays-Bas, Râles, 1865, p. 26—Gold Coast). I have also before me several specimens from Fantee and Bibiani, as well as birds from Portuguese Guinea and the Gambia,

and these all belong to the same race and must be known as *Sarothrura pulchra pulchra*.

Hitherto this species has been said by Sharpe (Cat. Bds.) and Reichenow (Vögel Afrikas, i. p. 286) to range from Senegambia to Gaboon and Angola, east to the Congo.

Neumann (Bull. B. O. C. xxi. p. 45) describes two races of *S. pulchra* :—

(A) *S. p. centralis*—Type loc. : Mswa, on the west shore of Lake Albert. *Habitat.* Lake Region of Central Africa.

(B) *S. p. zenkeri*—Type loc. : Bipinde, S. Cameroon. *Habitat.* South Cameroon.

In both, the males are almost indistinguishable from *S. p. pulchra*, and the females are therefore best dealt with separately.

In the first place, the female of *S. p. pulchra* has the ground-colour of the back black, closely barred with pale chestnut; the bars of pale chestnut and the bars of black are almost the same width. This is an important point to bear in mind. The black bars on the tail are, moreover, either wanting or only faintly indicated.

In the original description of *S. p. centralis* the female is said to be similar to the female of *S. p. pulchra*, but the tail has broad black bars, while in *S. p. pulchra* it is uniform chestnut or with only an indication of thin black bars.

Now, I have before me five females from the Jackson collection, collected at Mabira and Bugoma, Uganda. These birds bear out the character of the broadly banded tail, but they can be distinguished from *S. p. pulchra* much more readily by the barring on the upper parts (which from Neumann's description one would imagine to be similar to the barring in *S. p. pulchra*). The pale chestnut bars are, however, much narrower than the black bars, which are at least three times as wide as the pale bars. Thus the back has a much blacker appearance than in typical specimens. Although Neumann has omitted to mention this striking

character, these Uganda specimens can only be referred to *S. p. centralis*.

In *S. p. zenkeri* the female is said by Neumann in the original description to have the head and neck darker than in *S. p. pulchra* or *S. p. centralis*. Moreover, *S. p. zenkeri* is said by Neumann to be easily distinguished from both by having the upper side black, with but few brown bars, the intermediate black bars being from six to eight times broader than the brown bars. The black bars of the underside are also much broader than the brown ones; the tail is said to be black, with a few defined chestnut bars; the measurements are less than those of *S. p. pulchra* and *S. p. centralis*.

Now, the female type of *S. p. zenkeri* came from Bipinde, and the habitat is said to be "South Cameroon"; so when we recently received specimens of *S. pulchra* from Mr. Bates, collected at Bitye, R. Ja, S. Cameroon, I naturally expected these birds to be typical *S. pulchra zenkeri*. They do not, however, agree with the description of the type (which is in Berlin) any more than Sir Frederick Jackson's birds from Uganda agree with Neumann's description of *S. p. centralis*. In fact, the female birds which Mr. Bates obtained in southern Cameroon (Nos. 5443 and 5453) agree with female specimens from northern Angola, Tingasi, and Ndoruma, and only differ from Uganda birds in having the chestnut colour of the head, neck, and breast brighter.

We cannot possibly accept Neumann's name *zenkeri* for these birds, as the intermediate black bars on the back are only about three times as broad as the pale bars (*not* six times broader as they are said to be in *zenkeri*); the black and chestnut bars of the tail are about equal in breadth, and the tail cannot, therefore, by any stretch of imagination be called "black with a few defined chestnut bars"; moreover, the head and neck is, if anything, brighter chestnut than in *S. p. centralis*, not darker, as I gather Neumann infers his *S. p. zenkeri* to be, although in the original description this is very badly expressed.

We have the choice, therefore, of uniting birds from Lower

Guinea with *S. p. centralis*, or of considering it a distinct race distinguished

from *S. p. pulchra*, by having the black bars on the back decidedly broader ;

from *S. p. zenkeri*, by having a tail uniformly banded in black and chestnut, and by having the black bars of the back only three times as broad as the chestnut bars (instead of six times as broad), and by having a brighter chestnut head ; and

from *S. p. centralis*, by having the chestnut of the head brighter.

If we consider the Cameroon, Angola, and western Belgian Congo birds as distinct from *centralis*, we shall have the following races of *S. pulchra* :—

SAROTHRURA PULCHRA PULCHRA.

[*Cree pulchra* Gray, in Griffith's Cuv. Anim. King. vol. viii. Aves, p. 410—Type locality : Sierra Leone (Latham's Hist. Birds, ix. 1824, p. 379).]

Range. The Gambia, Portuguese Guinea, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast.

S. PULCHRA subsp.

Range. N.W. Belgian Congo (Tingasi and Ndoruma), Cameroon (R. Ja), N. Angola (N'Dalla Tando).

S. PULCHRA ZENKERI.

[*Sarothruru pulchra zenkeri* Neumann, Bull. B. O. C. xxi. p. 45—Type locality : Bipinde, S. Cameroon.]

Range. Bipinde District, S. Cameroon.

S. PULCHRA CENTRALIS.

[*Sarothruru pulchra centralis* Neumann, Bull. B. O. C. xxi. p. 45—Type locality : Mswa, on the west shore of Lake Albert.]

Range. Lake Region of Central Africa ; Uganda, and northern Kavirondo to Nandi.

Sarothrura böhmi böhmi.

Sarothrura böhmi Reichw. Vögel Afrikas, i. 1900, p. 290
— Type locality : Likulwe, Congo.

This distinct species was described by Reichenow from Likulwe, just north of Katanga in the southern Belgian Congo.

Unfortunately we have no typical birds in the British Museum ; in fact, the specimen now sent home by Mr. Bates, shot at Bitye, R. Ja, on the 29th of November, 1913, is the first of its kind which we have seen. The occurrence of this Rail so far from its typical locality at once suggested the possibility of its being a distinct form.

Dr. van Someren recently obtained two specimens of this Rail—one from the Nairobi Rifle-range, the other from Kisumu. These birds differ from the Cameroon specimen in the highly streaked appearance of the wing-coverts caused by each feather having two pronounced submarginal white streaks, considerably wider than the streaks on the back. I am inclined to think that the bird which Mr. Bates obtained at Bitye has not yet attained the fully adult plumage, as only three feathers of the greater wing-coverts are submarginally streaked with white.

Mr. Chapin now writes to me from America that he has specimens of *S. böhmi* from Faradje (Upper Uele) and from Medje.

It is, of course, quite possible that this Rail extends its range across central Africa, and that the Cameroon birds are identical with the Nairobi specimens ; but should further specimens be received from Cameroon and from the typical locality, it will be worth while comparing the specimens very carefully, as the possibility of a distinct West African race must not be overlooked. In any case, the occurrence of this Rail in Cameroon is of considerable interest.

Since writing the above, I have examined a female Rail obtained at Machakos, Brit. E. Africa, which I have named *Sarothrura somereni*. It is quite unlike any other Rail which I have seen (a full description of this bird appeared in Bull. B. O. C. vol. xl. 1920, pp. 8 & 28), and Dr. van Someren

thinks it is probably the female of his two male birds from Nairobi and Kisumu, which he believes are distinct from *S. böhmi*. If this is the case, it must, of course, be known as *Sarothrura böhmi somereni*.

While this paper was in the press I received yet another form of this Rail, caught at sea in lat. 10° 0' N., long. 15° 30' W. off the coast of French Guinea by Mr. W. P. Lowe. I have named this bird *Sarothrura böhmi danei* in the Bull. B. O. C. xli. p. 5, October 1920. It is very much blacker on the underparts than the typical form and is darker on the back, but other differences exist and are set forth in the original description.

If Dr. van Someren is correct in thinking *S. somereni* a race of *böhmi*, we shall have:—

1. SAROTHRURA BÖHMI BÖHMI Rehw.
Type loc.: Likulwe, Belgian Congo.
Range. Belgian Congo, probably westwards to Cameroon.
2. SAROTHRURA BÖHMI SOMERENI BANNERMAN.
Type loc.: Machakos.
Range. Kenya Colony.
3. SAROTHRURA BÖHMI DANEI BANNERMAN.
Type loc.: At sea off French Guinea.
Range. Unknown.

***Sarothrura rufa bonapartei*.**

Corethrura bonapartei Hartl. Syst. Orn. Westafr. 1857, p. 242—Type locality: Gaboon.

A single example of this Rail appears in the collection which Mr. Bates has now sent to us. It is a male bird in adult plumage. Whilst working at this group of Rails, I had the advantage of examining a series of birds which Dr. van Someren sent to me for my opinion as to their being one or two new subspecies represented. I arrived at very much the same conclusion as Dr. van Someren had done working at Tring, and as he has now described two of these forms in the Bull. B. O. C. vol. xl. 1919, p. 20, I will

publish the notes which I made on the various forms while working through his birds.

We had specimens from Cape Colony, Natal, Angola, Cameroon, Gaboon, Sierra Leone, British East Africa, and Uganda; in addition to which a race had been described from the eastern shores of Lake Tanganyika, of which we had no examples.

We recognised five distinct forms as follows:—

1. SAROTHRURA RUF A RUF A (Vicill.)—Type locality :
“ Africa.”
Range. Natal, Cape Colony, Transvaal.
2. SAROTHRURA RUF A LUGENS (Böhm)—Type locality :
Ugalla (East of Lake Tanganyika).
Range. East of Lake Tanganyika.
3. SAROTHRURA RUF A ELIZABETHÆ VAN SOMEREN—Type locality :
Kisumu.
Range. Uganda, from Entebbe east to Elgon and Kisumu in Kenya Colony.
4. SAROTHRURA RUF A ANSORGEI VAN SOMEREN—Type locality :
Duque de Braganza.
Range. Angola.
5. SAROTHRURA RUF A BONAPARTEI (Hartl.)—Type locality :
Gaboön.
Range. Gaboön, Cameroon, extending north to Sierra Leone.

We have no specimen of *Sarothrura antonii* (Madarasz & Neumann, Orn. Monatsber. 1911, p. 186—Ndassckera and Borders of Kenya Colony and Tanganyika Territory). Mr. Chapin thinks it will prove to be synonymous with *S. lugens*.

Haplopelia simplex plumescens.

Haplopelia plumescens Sharpe, Ibis, 1904, p. 95—Type locality : Efulen, S. Cameroon; Bates, Ibis, 1911, p. 488.

Mr. Bates has sent four more specimens of these interesting Pigeons—two males and two females. It is gratifying to find that these specimens fit in well with the key to the species which I prepared in my review of this

genus (*Ibis*, 1916, pp. 1-16). Mr. Bates has remarked on the back of one of his labels that he believes the species named *H. plumbescens* Sharpe is identical with *H. simplex*, but he will see in my paper cited that this is not the case. *H. s. simplex* is restricted to the island of St. Thomas in the Gulf of Guinea (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1915, p. 119). I should like to take this opportunity to correct an error which appeared in my review of this genus (*l. c.*). On pp. 11 and 14 I gave the same range for both *Haplopetelia simplex inornata* and *H. s. plumbescens*. It should be as follows:—

H. s. inornata.

Range. Cameroon Mountain.

H. s. plumbescens.

Range. Southern Cameroon (except Cameroon Mountain). River Ja district.

Aplopetelia tesmanni Rehw. described from Bebai, S. Cameroon, is synonymous with *H. s. plumbescens*.

V.—On the Genus *Macrosphenus* Cassin, with special reference to the races of *Macrosphenus flavicans*. By DAVID A. BANNERMAN, M.B.E., B.A., M.B.O.U.

THE type of the genus *Macrosphenus* is *M. flavicans* of Cassin (*Proc. Philad. Acad.* 1859, p. 42), and this species was described from the Camma River, Gaboon.

***Macrosphenus flavicans flavicans* Cassin.**

From material in the British Museum I consider that this species, of which we have seventeen examples in the British Museum, extends from western Cameroon, through Gaboon to Landana at the mouth of the Congo, and I also unite with it *Macrosphenus poensis* of Alexander (*Bull. B. O. C.* xiii. 1903, p. 36) which inhabits Fernando Po, as I cannot see any distinction between this and the mainland bird. It is also evident, as suggested by Sharpe and confirmed by Ogilvie-Grant (*Trans. Zool. Soc.* xix. 1910, p. 378), that *Macrosphenus zenkeri* Reichw. (*Orn. Monatsber.* 1898, p. 23),